

## Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

Councillors Present: - Gillian Tarrant – Vice Chairman, Peter Bishop, Tina Cruz, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Tomos Hutchings, Tina Kiddell, Graham Martin, Keith Prince, Kathryn Stallard, Steve Turley-Long, Catherine Turley-Long

Officer present: Michelle Thompson Deputy Clerk

1 members of the public arrived at item 7.3

**I. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND APPROVED** from Don Saunders District Councillor/County Councillor Claire Bowes sent notice that she could not attend the meeting.

### **2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

### **3. MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on March 11th 2025 were accepted as a true record.

3.2 Updates from items raised at the meeting on March 11th 2025 not agenda items for this meeting:

- Electrical contractor booked for 24th, 25th and 26th March for electrical work at the unit
- Contractor attending the Clock Tower on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to quote for the remedial works.
- Local Highways Engineer comments regarding yellow lines at Harvest Road: Double yellow lines would require a legal order and cost around 10k and take 12 months to deliver. I'm not sure why this would be asked for?
- Breckland Executive Director Steve James has offered to provide more information regarding the Safer Street Warden Scheme. This is awaited.

### **4. REPORTS**

- Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended:

- Norfolk Community Foundation event at Royal Norfolk Showground on 12th March
- Swaffham Civic Reception on 14th March
- Food Hub & Charlotte Harvey Trust Management Meetings on 20th March

- Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman has attended

- Watton Twinning Association Annual General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

- District Councillor's Report

E-mailed report from District Councillor Claire Bowes had been forwarded to Town Councillors prior to the meeting.

District Councillors Tina Kiddell and Keith Gilbert reported that:

- Regarding the Local Government re-organisation Breckland Council have now submitted their interim proposal to support the 3-tier unitary authority council model.

- Breckland Council have now approved the reused call for sites, National planning framework and local plan will now go live.
- Serco have been weed spraying in Watton
- Footfall cameras are due to be installed in the high street at Longsons and the Health Centre this week.

- **County Councillors Report**

Written report received from County Councillor Claire Bowes was forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting.

**Claire Bowes will be asked again to supply her Report 24 hours before the meeting to give Councillors a chance to respond at the meeting to points raised**

- Clerks Report as presented in the agenda pack with verbal update given: Councillors were reminded of the date for the Annual Town Meeting. It was suggested that the meeting would be a good opportunity to promote the council and the role as councillor to future proof the Town Council.

In preparation for V E Day on May 11<sup>th</sup>, councillors were asked for as much help as possible at the event.

- **No Lead Councillors Report**

## **5. WORKS IN PROGRESS**

The Works in Progress list was noted.

## **6. NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

## **7. FINANCE**

7.1 Payments for March 2025 were approved for payment as on the list presented prior to the meeting.

7.2 The draft minutes from the Finance Committee held on 14.02.25 were noted.

7.3 Recommendations from the Finance Committee

- I **It was resolved** that the Town Council does not agree to giving a loan for £20,000 as requested by Watton Sports Association as it does not see this as an appropriate use of Council funds

**It was asked if The Community Projects Officer Sue Dent could sign post the Sports Centre to other forms of funding.**

## **8. UPDATE ON DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION**

It was noted that email correspondence from Norfolk County Council leader was received and forwarded to councillors on 18.03.25

It was stressed that the National Government Consultation is currently running and it is strongly encouraged that Councillors and residents complete and share the consultation.

**The link to the consultation will be published on the Town Council Website and Notice Boards.**

## **9. CEMETERY**

**9.1** The draft minutes from the Cemetery Working Group Meeting held on 11.03.25 were noted.

### **9.2 Cemetery update**

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk met with H Brett & Son Stonemasons on 18.03.25 Various matters were discussed. H Brett & Son is sending over guidance and professional advice on measurements of memorial sizes and heights.

Undertakers are still to be approached for advice regarding number of ashes in a plot.

Once the office has gathered all information, recommendations will be brought back to council for consideration.

Originally it was thought that any excess subsoil from grave digging can not be removed from site due to it being consecrated, this has since been investigated and found to not be the case. Subsoil from the cemetery is deemed non-hazardous. Ways in which the soil can be removed from site safely, is being investigated.

## **10. BBC RADIO NORFOLK – MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS**

The Make a Difference Awards are to celebrate individuals and groups who go above and beyond to make this county a better place to live.

The Clerk will be informed of any nominations the Councillors would like to make.

## **11. WATTON AND SAHAM FLOOD ACTION GROUP COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**It was resolved** that Councillor Keith Gilbert and Councillor Tomos Hutchings will be members on the Watton and Saham Flood Action group

## **12. GRANT REQUEST FROM THE CHARLOTTE HARVEY TRUST**

**It was resolved** to grant £1000 to The Charlotte Harvey Trust as requested.

A concern was raised regarding the Town Council being Custodian Trustees to the Charlotte Harvey Trust and supporting the Charity financially. It is to be made clear that the Charlotte Harvey Trust went through the Grants application process, and that any organisation can also apply to the Council for a Grant.

## **13. SUMMER RECESS**

It has been suggested that the Town Council go back to having a Summer recess in August, this would mean no Town Council meetings.

**It was resolved** that the staff be consulted on this matter and the item will be brought back to the next meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

It was also asked that the one meeting in December is also dismissed.

## **14. SPORTS CENTRE SKATE PARK**

**It was resolved** to support the S106 project application for a Skate Park at Watton Sports Centre.

## **15 PLANNING**

Planning applications received for consultation:

15.1 PL/2025/0284/OMIN - Outline Planning for access and layout of 7 dwellings. - Land to rear of 123 Brandon Road, Watton

It was agreed to support the recommendations made by Watton & Saham Flood Action Group.

15.2 PL/2025/0293/FMIN - Proposed change of use of a residential dwelling and its associated garage outbuilding. The use class will change from Residential (Use Class C3) to a Day Nursery (Use Class E(f)). The proposed works also include two extensions and internal alterations to link the buildings together. Additionally, to provide secure access and play space for the day occupants. - The Old School House, 85 High Street, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 6AW

No comments

**16.** Resolution passed to exclude the public and press.

16.1 The draft minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on 14.03.25 were noted.

Some issues have been raised regarding a Market stall holder, **it was agreed that a letter will be written to the stall holder outlining the issues.**